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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,953	08/22/2003	Vipin Samar	OR03-10201	8253

51067 7590 02/24/2006

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EXAMINER

ROSE, HELENE ROBERTA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/645,953	Applicant(s) SAMAR, VIPIN	
	Examiner Helene R. Rose	Art Unit 2163	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>22 August 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1-24 have been presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-24 have been rejected.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 2, is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 2 recites the following acronyms SHA-1 and MD5. The following acronyms must be spelled out to fully indicate what they represent/stand for. Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claims 7, 15, and 23, a replacement of the terms "checking/checks" (in which it may apply) with a term such as —match—would better render the intent of the claim limitation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C 112

5. Claim 2, is rejected under 112, second paragraph. Claim 2 recite the following limitation "or", this limitation renders the claim vague and indefinite, because the term "or" is considered to be alternative language. Therefore, the limitation renders the claim vague and indefinite, because it is unclear as to how the examiner should interpret the claim limitation as it relates to "or".
6. Claims 7,15, and 23 are rejected under 112, second paragraph. Claims 7,15,and 23 recite the following limitation "if", this limitation renders the claim vague and indefinite, because the term "if" is considered to be alternative language. Therefore, the limitation renders the claim

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vague and indefinite, because it is unclear as to how the examiner should interpret the claim limitation as it relates to “if”.

Information Disclosure Statement

7. The information disclosure statement filed on July 9, 2003 has been considered. However, “2002/169,793” cited under Patent No is incorrectly cited. The Information Disclosure has been placed in the application file to reflect the changes; therefore the appropriate correction is required to reflect the appropriate change.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scheussler et al (US Patent No. 6,366,950/Date of Patent April 2, 2002).

Claims 1,9, and 17:

Regarding claims 1,9, and 17, Scheussler teaches an apparatus for protecting an item of private information in a database (Figure 3, all features, wherein the identification number, user, email, and authentication are all within the database, Scheussler), wherein the item of private information is used as a key (Figure 3, diagram 32A and diagram 32D, wherein an index is a

sequence of key pointers pairs where each pointer points to a record in the database that contains the key value in a particular field, column 10, lines 13-22, wherein the index is sorted on the key values to allow rapid searching for a particular key value, Scheussler), for retrieving data from the database (column 10, lines 29-32, wherein retrieve the ID number from the processor and prepares a message to be sent to the server, wherein the server includes the identification database defined in Figure 2, Scheussler) comprising:

a receiving mechanism configured to receive the item of private information (column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives the email message, column 2, lines 35-37, wherein the client module that generates the message includes identification number, column 2, line 37, wherein the client computer includes a client module generates a message and sends the message over the communications medium, and column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives a email message, Scheussler);

a hashing mechanism (column 5, lines 44-46, Scheussler) configured to create a hash of the item of private information (column 8, lines 43-44, Scheussler); and

a storage mechanism configured to store the hash of the item of private information in a database (column 3, lines 64-66, Scheussler).

Claims 2,10, and 18:

Regarding claims 2,10, and 18, Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism is configured to use SHA-1 or MD5 hashing functions (column 10, lines 1-5, wherein the field 32B has a size of 128 bits, the ID number has a size of 44 bits, wherein fixed length is interpreted to be message digest 5, column 11, lines 46-48, wherein authenticating procedure, column 5, lines

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57-67, wherein packet addressing, handshaking is defined to be message digest for the reason that it authenticate packet data, Scheussler¹).

Claims 3,11, and 19:

Regarding claims 3,11, and 19, Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism is internal to the database (see Figure 1, diagrams 2 & 4, column 5, lines 40-45, wherein each computer 2, 4 has appropriate application and communications software modules, wherein the software modules include, Internet access software, cable modem software, two-way communications software, point-to-point software, the hasher software, software to retrieve and process the ID number from the identification module 8, Scheussler) and is transparent to an application (column 6, lines 21-29, wherein transparent is interpret to be a computer operation that does not require user intervention, in which a user is unaware that it is taking place) which manipulates the private information (column 6, lines 43-48, wherein communications software automatically converts the email into an appropriate electronic format, Scheussler).

Claims 4,12, and 20:

Regarding claims 4,12, and 20, Scheussler teaches a query mechanism (column 9, lines 2-3) configured to perform queries containing the private information (column 9, lines 7-13, wherein recursive query expressions, wherein recursive is defined to be a program or task that can repeat itself indefinitely, Scheussler), wherein the query mechanism is configured to:

¹ The examiner interpret the MD5 to be wherein the field 32B has a size of 128 bits, the ID number has a size of 44 bits, correspond to the MD5 claimed since MD5 is defined to be a message digest that is a widely-used cryptographic has function with a 128-bit hash value, and as a internet standard MD5 has been employed in a wide variety of security applications, and it also commonly used to check the integrity of files (column 12, lines 17-29, Scheussler).

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receive the item of private information (column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives the email message, column 2, lines 35-37, wherein the client module that generates the message includes identification number, column 2, line 37, wherein sending the message over the communications medium, and column 6, lines 58-59, wherein the computer receives a email message, Scheussler);

create a hash (column 5, lines 44-46, Scheussler) of the item of private information (column 8, lines 43-44, Scheussler); and

query the database using the hash of the item of private information (column 8, lines 66-67, Scheussler).

Claims 5,13, and 21:

Regarding claims 5, 13, and 21, Scheussler teaches wherein the item of private information can include one of:

a social security number;

a driver's license number;

a passport number;

an email address (Figure 4, diagram 202 and column 6, lines 27-29, Scheussler²);

a person's name; and

a person's mother's maiden name.

Claims 6,14,and 22:

² The examiner notes that claims 5,13, and 21 does not require full examination of all claim limitations since the claims simply states wherein the item private information can include one of the following. Therefore, only one limitation was made reference to.

Regarding claims 6,14, and 22 Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism can be further configured to combine multiple items of private information prior to creating the hash (column 7, lines 35-40, wherein the conferencing connections can include video conferences, voice, chat, and data connections, and wherein the contemplated that the various types of conferences connection can be combined so that data connection is parallel to a voice connection, Scheussler).

Claims 7,15, and 23:

Regarding claims 7,15, and 23 Scheussler teaches wherein the hashing mechanism is further configured to check a column attribute in the database to see if "privacy" is enabled (Figure 3, diagram 32C and column 2, lines 45-48, wherein status information is interpreted to be determining if an item is available, Scheuusler), and if so, to create the hash of the private information (column 8, lines 43-44, Scheussler).

Claims 8,16, and 24:

Regarding claims 8,16, and 24 Scheussler teaches wherein the database is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) database (column 9, lines 45-51, wherein LDAP directory entries are arranged in a hierarchical structure that reflects political, geographic, organizational boundaries, while entries representing countries appear at the top of the tree while other entries in the tree represent states or national organizations, and below them there may be entries representing people, organizational units, printers, documents, wherein the database is lightweight is defined to be the tree representing the directory information tree, known as DIT, to be a distributed LDAP database that can be hosted by more than one server, Schuessler).

Prior Art of Record:

1. Scheussler et al (US Patent No. 6,366,950) discloses a communications network includes several computers connected to a communications medium, wherein a client computer has a unique identification number that is embedded within a processor. In addition, the client computer includes a client module which generates a message that includes the identification number and sends the message over the communications medium and another computer receives the message and retrieves the identification number from the message, wherein the computer processes the identification number and updates an identification database. The processing of the identification number and the updating of the identification database is triggered once the message is received.

Point of Contact


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene R. Rose whose telephone number is (571) 272-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 4:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Helene R Rose
Technology Center 2100
February 9, 2006



Sana Al-Hashemi